

undergone an historic change; it was evident in the faces of Wisconsinites that visibly displayed their resolve and in their shouts of thank you. While this battle may be over, the war continues. I rise to give a hearty thank you to Wisconsin's Fabulous 14.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during rollcall vote No. 177 taken on Tuesday, March 15. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

NATIONAL AHEC WEEK

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, March 14–18 marks National AHEC week. The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program was developed by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train and retain a health professions workforce. Today, 56 AHEC programs with more than 235 centers operate in almost every state and the District of Columbia. The AHEC program addresses the imbalances in our healthcare system and inequities in access to and quality of healthcare. Nearly 8,000 AHEC community based training sites are located in underserved areas including 3,500 in designated health professions shortage areas, training a workforce committed to serving underserved populations. This is accomplished by forming academic and community partnerships that link the resources of academic health centers with the needs of the communities. This unique program has continually exceeded HRSA's performance measure targets in terms of the percentage of program participants who are underrepresented minorities and from disadvantaged backgrounds; the proportion of participants that train in medically underserved communities; and the percentage of health professionals entering practice in underserved areas.

On this week, we celebrate the goals and ideals of the AHEC program as well as its innumerable contributions to the advancement of health care in our most underserved communities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STARTUP VISA ACT OF 2011

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a new version of the StartUp Visa Act, a bill that would encourage innovation and economic growth by permitting immigrant

entrepreneurs greater access to temporary U.S. visas. The bill matches legislation introduced this week by Senators JOHN KERRY, RICHARD LUGAR, and MARK UDALL in the Senate.

What do American household names such as Google, eBay and Procter & Gamble have in common? They are all former start-ups founded by immigrants.

Our current visa laws have made it unnecessarily difficult for immigrants to launch new companies in the United States. I am reintroducing the StartUp Visa Act because the economic dynamism of foreign-born talent has always been a crucial factor in our country's growth, and we must take steps to enable it to continue. By allowing immigrant entrepreneurs greater access to American visas, we truly can drive American job creation and channel the power of innovation.

This legislation would be an expansion of the bill from last Congress, extending the pool of eligible immigrants to include holders of H–1B visas and entrepreneurs living outside the United States with a market presence in the country.

The entrepreneurial spirit is ingrained in our country's history and success. I believe that this legislation is a vital component of promoting our global competitiveness. We must ensure a strong foundation for foreign-born, highly-skilled talent to create American jobs and promote economic prosperity and this bill works toward that end.

HONORING TEXAS SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution for their patriotism and preservation of our country's rich history. Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution members can trace their family heritage to the men and women who fought for our nation's independence. For 115 years, Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution has inspired our communities with the principles and promises of our nation's Founding Fathers.

On February 8, 1896, charter members from around Texas formed the Bernardo de Galvez Chapter of Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution. The founding members selected The Honorable Ira H. Evans as the first state president. In 1897, the first annual meeting was held with fifteen members. Today the organization has grown to incorporate sixty-six chapters across Texas and approximately ten thousand members.

Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution is actively involved in communities around Texas by sponsoring and hosting many charitable events such as essay, art, and oration contests for high school students. Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution recognizes ROTC, JROTC, Eagle Scouts, and others for hard work in the community. Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution also works closely with disabled veterans

in homes and hospitals around Texas. The organization honors the importance of the American Revolution through civic events where full color guard and revolutionary war uniforms are worn to commemorate our nation's founding.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Texas Society, Sons of the American Revolution on its faithful service to our communities in Texas.

H.R. 1, FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, hundreds of Minnesotans, as well as citizens from across the country, have contacted my office about the military's multi-million dollar taxpayer sponsorship of NASCAR race cars. Frankly, many of my constituents and citizens of all political persuasions—Democrats, Republicans, and Tea Party activists—are dumbfounded when race car drivers receive millions of dollars from the Department of Defense while the Speaker of the House of Representatives tells the American people our country is "broke."

Last month the House of Representatives voted to eliminate funding for homeless veterans, slash community health centers serving low income families, and pass a fiscal year 2011 budget that would force 800,000 Americans to lose their jobs. Yet, taxpayer funded sponsorship of NASCAR racing teams was protected. I find this absurd.

One of my constituents, a twelve-year-old young man named Nickolas of South Saint Paul, Minnesota, provided an eloquent rebuttal to these appalling priorities. Nickolas wrote my office saying:

Congresswomen Betty McCollum,

My name is Nickolas, and I am a Boy Scout working on my Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge.

I read online that you wrote a bill to stop the Pentagon from sponsoring NASCAR race teams as a way to advertise. I agree that it is absurd that the Pentagon is funding NASCAR. We should put the money into NASA and jobs for people. NASA is more important than NASCAR.

If the government is going to pay to support a race, how about a race to Mars? America has already sent people to the moon, why not Mars? Instead of paying for people to go in circles, why not pay for people to go for Mars? Humans are explorers. We should go to answer questions about the Red Planet and the Solar System. In addition, the studies done to get to Mars will give us better technology here on earth.

Nickolas understands that scarce taxpayer dollars need to be invested in innovation, education, and exploration that will create new opportunities to expand our knowledge of space and our economy. I strongly encourage my colleagues to take Nickolas' advice and focus on cutting unnecessary government spending, like government sponsorship of NASCAR race cars while making sound investments in America's future.

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE
4175TH CID

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the safe return of 10 Missouri National Guardsmen from the 4175th Military Police Detachment Criminal Investigation Division.

The soldiers are returning from a nearly year-long deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. They were responsible for conducting criminal investigations for the Army. The group consists of Soldiers from Jefferson City, Columbia, O'Fallon, High Ridge, Hannibal, and St. Charles. The unit commander is Chief Warrant Officer 2 Timothy Forney, of Hannibal, MO.

Without Soldiers like those in the 4175th CID, we would not enjoy the freedoms we have today, and I am eternally grateful for their service. It is only fitting that they return home safely to their families and loved ones.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in welcoming home the members of the 4175th CID, and thanking them for their continued sacrifice as members of the Armed Forces.

HONORING THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CHAPTER 91 OF
DECATUR

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, DeKalb County serves as home for many Veterans who have served honorably in the United States Military; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 91 of Decatur is an organization that continues to serve those who have represented our nation in times of peace and war; and

Whereas, our beloved county, continues to rely on the wisdom, leadership and service from the Disabled American Veterans to assist and build our community; and

Whereas, this unique organization has given of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to preserve integrity and advocate strongly for our disabled veterans and their families; and

Whereas, the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 91 continues to serve our county by being the sword and shield of those who served our country in the United States military; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 91 of Decatur, Georgia for their outstanding service to our District;

Now Therefore, I, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. do hereby proclaim March 20, 2011 as Disabled American Veterans Chapter 91 Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 20th day of March, 2011.

CONGRATULATIONS GORDY
FAMILY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my good friend Thomas Gordy and his wife Theresa on the birth of their son Trenton Talmadge Gordy. Trenton was born on Tuesday, February 15, 2011, in Manassas, Virginia. He is welcomed home by his sister Sarah Gordy.

Trenton Talmadge Gordy is seven pounds and one ounce of pride and joy to his loving grandparents, Timmy and Kay Gordy of Monroe, Louisiana, Toni and Michael LeBlanc of Shreveport, Louisiana, and Canoy and Lynn Mayo of West Monroe, Louisiana.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Gordy family and wish them all the best.

HONORING GEOFFREY BREITKOPF

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride, but overwhelming grief, that I take to the floor today to honor one of my constituents who was taken from us far before his time, Officer Geoffrey Breitkopf.

When there is danger, there are two types of people. There are the majority of people who run from it, and then there are those brave few who run towards it. Officer Breitkopf was one of those brave few.

He served as a Nassau County Police Officer for more than 12 years, the majority of that time was spent serving in the elite Bureau of Special Operations. Always hard working, Officer Breitkopf earned a spot in the BSO in approximately half the time it normally takes. He was highly decorated for his various acts of bravery, including five Command Recognition Awards, four Meritorious Police Service Awards and one Medal of Commendation.

Despite having a family and an incredibly demanding job, Officer Breitkopf also found time to serve his community. He was a member of the Selden Fire Department for the past 15 years and served in the heavy rescue company, which handles search and rescue, house fires and extricating people from cars.

Tragically, Officer Breitkopf died in the line of duty, doing the job he loved so much and excelled at so well. My thoughts and prayers are with his fellow officers and his family, especially his wife, Paula, and their two sons Connor and Owen.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent a true hero like Officer Geoffrey Breitkopf and ask that we take a moment to reflect on his service to Long Island.

2011 BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate Brain Awareness Week

(BAW) and the benefits of this informative week in educating students and the general public on brain science in my congressional district and across the country. Brain Awareness Week, launched in 1996, brings together the Society for Neuroscience, the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, and 2400 other organizations in 76 countries who share a common goal of improving public awareness of brain and nervous system research. During Brain Awareness Week, which is being held March 14–20, neuroscientists around the globe educate K–12 students, senior citizens and the public at large on the wonders of the human brain. These activities include tours of neuroscience laboratories, museum exhibitions, and classroom discussions on elements of the human brain. This year, in my congressional district, high school students will have an opportunity to learn about brain physiology by working with Kent State University's graduate students to dissect a sheep's brain. This event will get these kids excited about the mysteries of the mind and the nature of scientific discovery. Today, in recognition of Brain Awareness Week, I would like to highlight a serious neurological disorder that affects millions of Americans—impacting their livelihoods and families: Addiction. In fact, 9 percent of Americans—more than 22 million people—abuse drugs on a regular basis.

As co-chair of the Congressional Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus, I understand the urgency of treating addiction and the burden this neurological disorder has on lives, loved ones, and our economy. According to the U.S. Office of National Drug Control, each year, more than half a trillion dollars is lost to substance abuse in the United States alone. These losses are realized across the board—in health, criminal, and productivity-related areas. That impact totals about \$181 billion for illicit drugs, \$168 billion for tobacco, and \$185 billion for alcohol. Even more worrisome are the statistics on drug-induced mortality. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that more than 38,000 people in the United States died of legal or illegal substances in 2006. That figure doesn't even include the 300,000 to 450,000 deaths each year attributed to nicotine addiction. As disturbing as these numbers are, they don't reflect the unquantifiable impact of drug abuse. Drug abuse dissolves families, shreds the social fabric in neighborhoods, leads to loss of jobs and income, contributes to poor school and job performance, and is often a causal factor in domestic violence and auto accidents.

Mr. Speaker, the consequences of substance abuse for children in society are especially tragic. Drug-addicted parents often don't properly care for their children, neglecting medical and educational needs, and failing to provide basic food and shelter. When parents fail, the government must step in. These deficits are ultimately made up for by the taxpayer. Although more than 75 percent of illicit drug users are employed, these adults are more likely to frequently change jobs, be involved in accidents, be absent, and be less productive even when at work. Notably, heavy drinkers are absent from work four to eight times more often than non-addicts. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), drug use changes brain chemistry and physiology beyond just the brain's reward system and includes regions involved in memory,